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Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-4006

November 8, 2007

The Honorable David Obey
Chairman
House Appropriations Committee
H-218, The Capitol
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Obey,

As you well know, I made several requests in this year's Defense Appropriations Bill, all of which I am extremely proud, but one in particular benefits the children of military personnel. My request is to make First Tee "Life Skills" programs available on military bases for the dependent children of military personnel. The "Life Skills" character education program focuses on nine core values: integrity, honesty, judgment, respect, courtesy, responsibility, confidence, sportsmanship and perseverance. This request particularly focuses on those dependent children with a deployed parent.

Mr. Chairman, putting politics aside, this country has an obligation to help these children cope with the fact that their parents are deployed and are in harm's way. I have seen first-hand the positive impact the program has had on young people, and I believe the children of our brave men and women in uniform could and should benefit from this program. I can not think of a better way to show our appreciation to military families than to make programs that are made available to civilians also available to dependent children of military personnel.

There are two First Tee programs in my Congressional District, in my home town of Sumter and the other in Columbia. However, my request does not designate any particular facility, but rather the funds are directed to the Operations and Maintenance Defense Wide account, where the Department of Defense will make funding decisions.

Mr. Chairman, as you well know, there have been similar requests for funding for this program in years past and it has received support from Members and leaders from both sides of the aisle. The Honorary Chairman of the First Tee Program is former President George H.W. Bush. In FY04, under the Republican Majority, Members secured \$1,000,000 for the program in the Labor, Health and Human Services Appropriations bill and an additional \$1,000,000 in the Commerce, Justice, and State Appropriations bill. In addition, the former Republican Majority Leader secured

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The Honorable David Obey

November 8, 2007

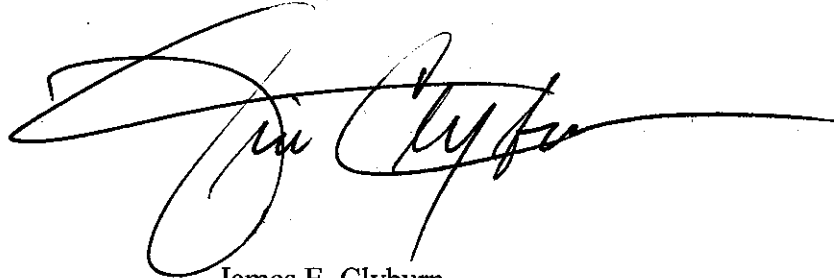
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\$1,000,000 for First Tee in the FY03 Labor, Health and Human Services Appropriations Bill.

Mr. Chairman, I am very proud of the requests that I have made for my district and its constituents. Nevertheless, I wanted to take the opportunity to clarify misconceptions about this program promulgated in recent news articles.

With kindest regards, I am,

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jim Clyburn", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

James E. Clyburn
Member of Congress